BLITZ PHOENIX
Chapter 20
Infiltration
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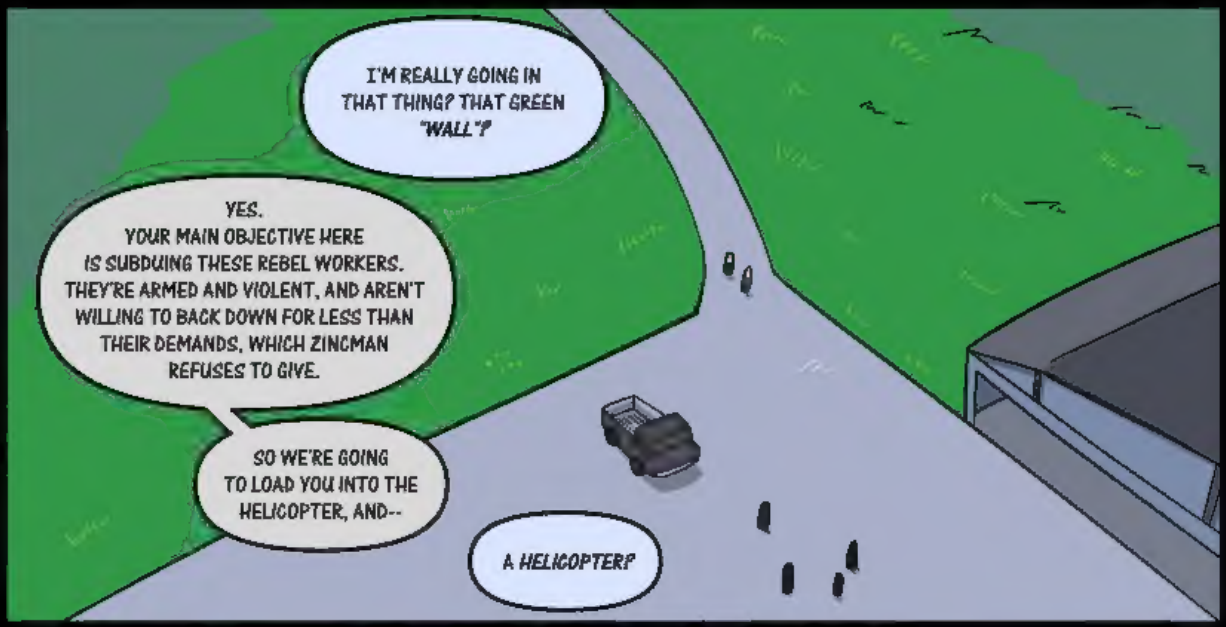
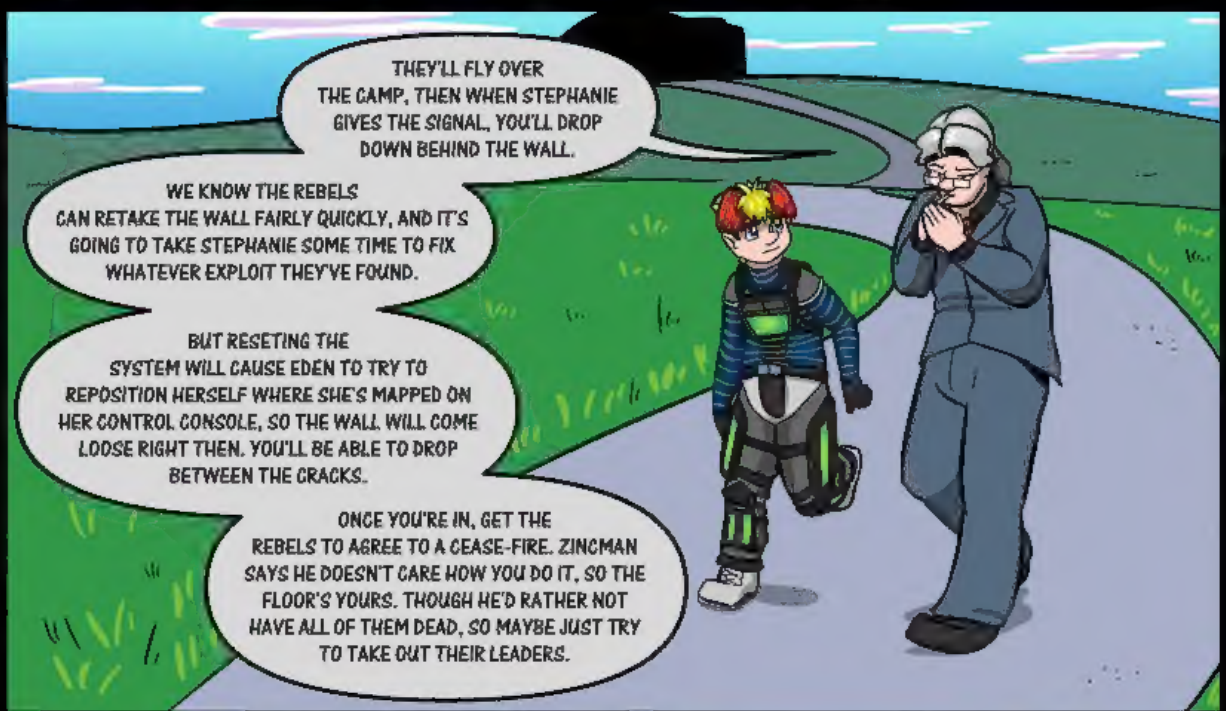
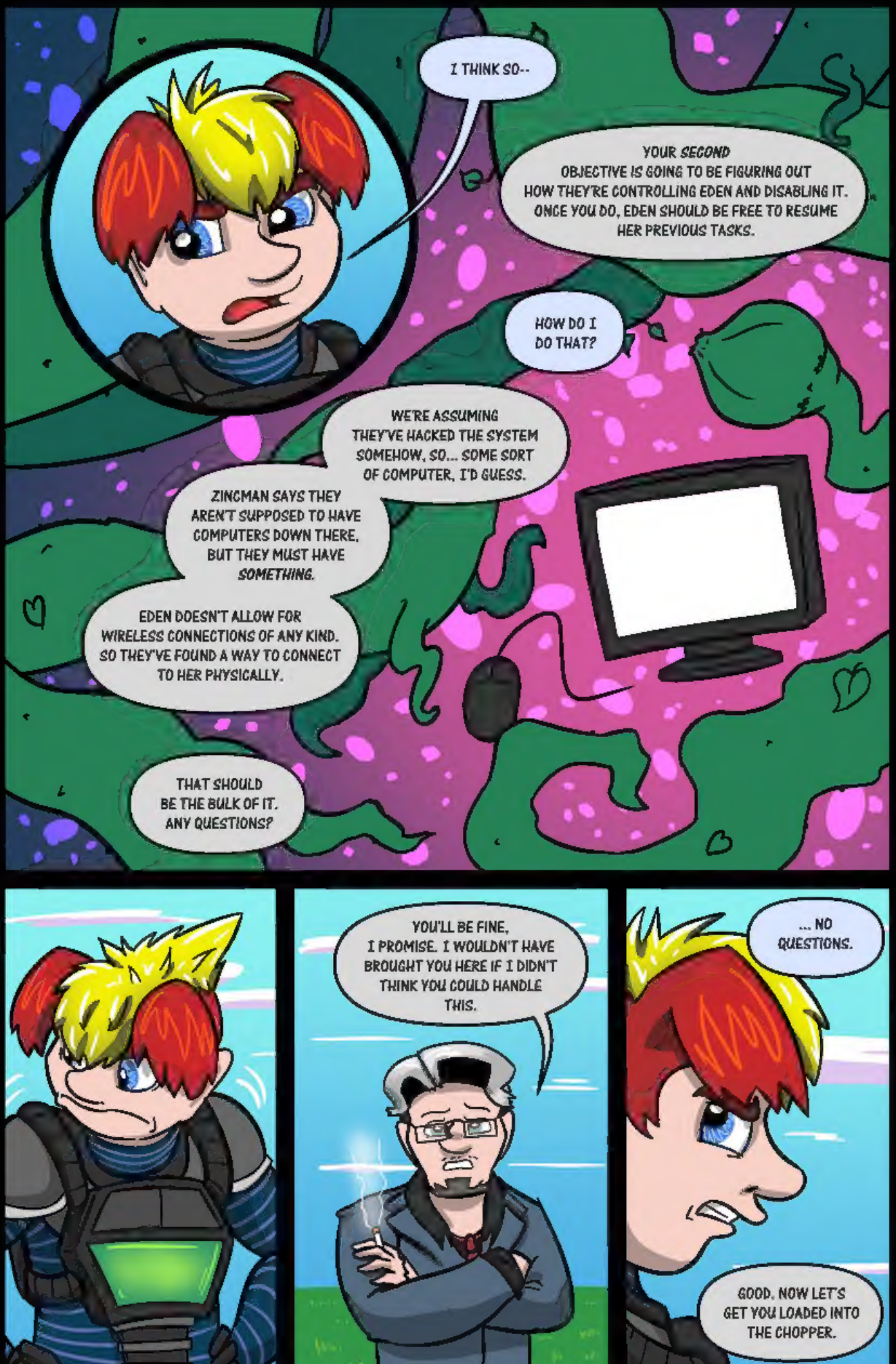

I'M REALLY GOING IN THAT THING? THAT GREEN "WALL"?
YES. YOUR MAIN OBJECTIVE HERE IS SUBDUING THESE REBEL WORKERS. THEY'RE ARMED AND VIOLENT, AND AREN'T WILLING TO BACK DOWN FOR LESS THAN THEIR DEMANDS, WHICH ZINCMAN REFUSES TO GIVE.
SO WE'RE GOING TO LOAD YOU INTO THE HELICOPTER, AND--
A HELICOPTER?


THEY'LL FLY OVER THE CAMP, THEN WHEN STEPHANIE GIVES THE SIGNAL, YOU'LL DROP DOWN BEHIND THE WALL.
WE KNOW THE REBELS CAN RETAKE THE WALL FAIRLY QUICKLY, AND IT'S GOING TO TAKE STEPHANIE SOME TIME TO FIX WHATEVER EXPLOIT THEY'VE FOUND.
BUT RESETING THE SYSTEM WILL CAUSE EDEN TO TRY TO REPOSITION HERSELF WHERE SHE'S MAPPED ON HER CONTROL CONSOLE, SO THE WALL WILL COME LOOSE RIGHT THEN. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DROP BETWEEN THE CRACKS.
ONCE YOU'RE IN, GET THE REBELS TO AGREE TO A CEASE-FIRE. ZINCMAN SAYS HE DOESN'T CARE HOW YOU DO IT, SO THE FLOOR'S YOURS. THOUGH HE'D RATHER NOT HAVE ALL OF THEM DEAD, SO MAYBE JUST TRY TO TAKE OUT THEIR LEADERS.

YOU WANT ME TO KILL THEM?
IF NECESSARY, YOU CAN.
I'M NOT KILLING ANYONE!

THEN DON'T.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO, BUT FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, THESE PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY DECIDED THEY CAN KILL. SO JUST UNDERSTAND IT'S AN OPTION.

WE'RE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. YOU'RE ON FAIR GROUND TO DO ANYTHING, AND ZINCMAN HAS GIVEN YOU PERMISSION.
DO OR DON'T. I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET YOURSELF IN A BAD SITUATION BECAUSE YOU REFUSED TO TAKE OUT A KEY FIGHTER.
WHATEVER.
DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE IN MIND FOR THEIR LEADERS?
ZINCMAN BELIEVES THEY'RE BEING LED BY A MAN NAMED LARS STROBUCK.
IF YOU CAN KILL OR CAPTURE HIM, THE REST OF THEM MAY LOSE THEIR NERVE.
GOT IT?
DON'T THEY HAVE GUNS?
THAT SUIT YOU'RE WEARING WILL PROTECT YOU.
FROM GUNS?!
YES. DR MEADOWLARK TAUGHT YOU HOW TO USE IT, RIGHT?


I THINK SO--
YOUR *SECOND* OBJECTIVE IS GOING TO BE FIGURING OUT HOW THEY'RE CONTROLLING EDEN AND DISABLING IT. ONCE YOU DO, EDEN SHOULD BE FREE TO RESUME HER PREVIOUS TASKS.
HOW DO I DO THAT?
WE'RE ASSUMING THEY'VE HACKED THE SYSTEM SOMEHOW, SO... SOME SORT OF COMPUTER, I'D GUESS.
ZINGMAN SAYS THEY AREN'T SUPPOSED TO HAVE COMPUTERS DOWN THERE, BUT THEY MUST HAVE *SOMETHING*.
EDEN DOESN'T ALLOW FOR WIRELESS CONNECTIONS OF ANY KIND. SO THEY'VE FOUND A WAY TO CONNECT TO HER PHYSICALLY.
THAT SHOULD BE THE BULK OF IT. ANY QUESTIONS?
YOU'LL BE FINE, I PROMISE. I WOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT YOU HERE IF I DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD HANDLE THIS.
... NO QUESTIONS.
GOOD. NOW LET'S GET YOU LOADED INTO THE CHOPPER.

SOON...
Ft Ft Ft
Ft Ft Ft
Ft Ft Ft
Ft
CRRRRN
CRRRN
BRM
IT'S OPEN! GO, KID!
NOW?
HURRY, BEFORE IT CLOSES AGAIN!

UH, DON'T I NEED A PARACHUTE OR SOMETH--
bump
AAAAAAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAA
Crrrrnn
AAAAAAA
Crrrrrr
brmp

YOU PUSHED HIM?!
YEAH. THAT WASN'T THAT BIG OF A DROP FOR HIM, HE CAN FLY.
WHAT?! WHO TOLD YOU HE CAN FLY?!
ISN'T THAT WHAT THAT GUY DOES? HE TURNS INTO A PHOENIX AND FLIES AROUND, AND BLASTS STUFF WITH LIGHTNING!
... WHAT?
HE'S THAT BLITZ PHOENIX GUY! THAT ANIME?
OH! I THOUGHT HE LOOKED FAMILIAR! MY NEPHEW LOVES THAT SHOW!
YEAH! MY DAUGHTER WATCHES IT! THE GUY FLIES!
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
SO, UH...
IF HE CAN FLY, WHAT WAS THAT HE SAID ABOUT A PARACHUTE?
...
IF ANYONE ASKS--
HE JUMPED.
RIGHT.

CRASH
FUCK!
CHRIST!
WHAT THE...
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
IS THAT A ...KID?

A FUCKING KID? IS HE ALIVE?
HOW'D HE GET THROUGH THE SNAKE WALL?
EVERYONE OKAY IN THERE?!
WE'RE OKAY! A KID JUST FELL THROUGH THE ROOF!
FUCK, IS HE WEARING A BOMB?!
N-NO, NO BOMB! IT'S... ARMOR?
...A COSTUME?
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
UH, YOUR BOSS SENT ME. I'M LOOKING FOR LARS?

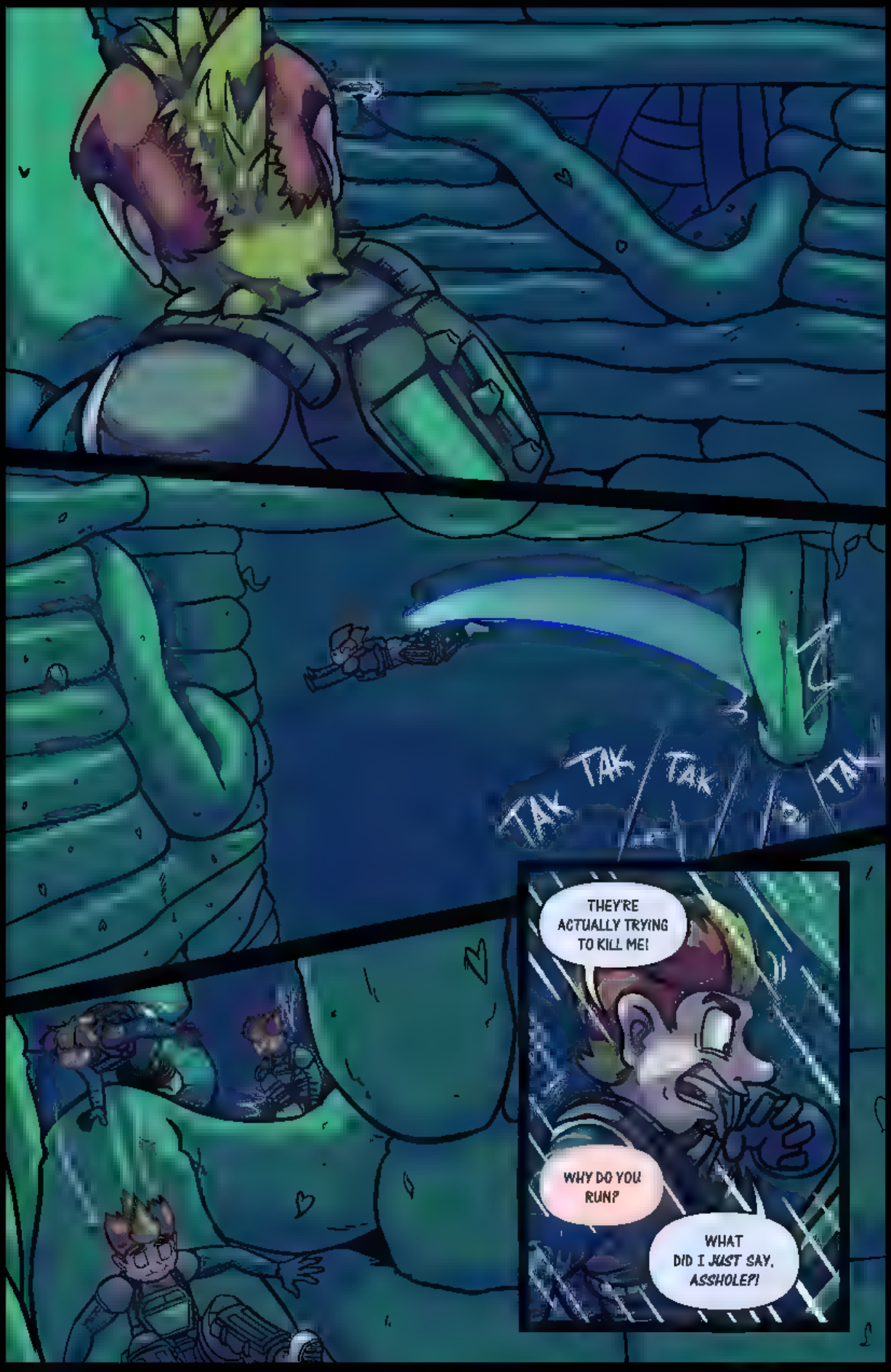
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT WAS THAT RACKET?
THIS KID FELL IN WHEN THE WALL OPENED UP.
HE CRASHED THROUGH THE ROOF OF HOUSE SEVEN.
AND NOT A SCRATCH ON HIM.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, KID?

WAIT, YOU'RE LARS?
HURRY UP AND TALK
I'M, UH--
I'M HERE TO ASK YOU TO SURRENDER?
ZINCMAN SENT YOU HERE?
Y YES.
HAS HE CONSIDERED OUR DEMANDS?
I'M TOLD NO.
Clak
Clak
Clak
Clak

WAIT, PLEASE! I-I'M JUST A KID-- I'M UNARMED!
YOU'RE WEARING COMBAT GEAR.
YEAH, BUT DOESN'T IT LOOK REALLY COOL ON ME?
YOU THINK HE'S ZINGMAN'S SON?
MAYBE [illegible]SON.
DOES HE EVEN HAVE A SON?
NO ONE WOULD WANT TO FUCK THAT UGLY BASTARD.
YOU THINK ZINGMAN WILL FINALLY LISTEN IF WE CUT THIS KID'S HEAD OFF AND THROW IT OUT OVER THE WALL?
HE'S JUST A KID!
ZINGMAN MUST NOT GIVE A SHIT ABOUT HIM TO SEND HIM IN HERE.

WE CAN JUST SEND HIM BACK OUT! WE DON'T HAVE TO ROUGH HIM UP!
IT'S PROBABLY A *TRAP!* THEY WANT *US* TO OPEN THE WALL OURSELVES SO THEY'LL SEND IN MORE OF THEIR "SECURITY" MERCENARIES.
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT YOU OR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.
EITHER GIVE US A DAMN GOOD REASON WHY WE SHOULD GIVE UP..
OR YOUR HEAD'S GETTING HUCKED OUT THE WALL
GAH!!
SON OF A BITCH!!
Heh..

HE'S ANOTHER MONSTER!!
THAT'S A HAZARD TECH CREATURE!!
TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT
FUCK FUCK FUCK FUCK
Whoa!
Where is he?
Up there!
HOW DID HE DO THAT?!
HE IS A MONSTER!!
WHAT NOW?!


TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
THEY'RE ACTUALLY TRYING TO KILL ME!
WHY DO YOU RUN?
WHAT DID I JUST SAY, ASSHOLE?!

CHRIST! HOW DOES HAZARD THINK THIS STUPID OUTFIT IS SUPPOSED TO SAVE ME FROM GETTING SHOT? MY HEAD'S TOTALLY EXPOSED!
IF YOU ARE OVERWHELMED, I CAN TAKE OVER FOR YOU. JUST LET ME KNOW
NO, YOU'LL KILL THEM! LIKE YOU DID TO GABRIEL! AND I DON'T NEED MORE DEATHS ON MY CONSCIENCE!
THEY ARE TRYING TO KILL YOU.
BUT IT'S NOT MY FAULT! DID YOU HEAR WHAT THEY SAID? THEY KNOW I'M HERE WITH HAZARD!
HE NEVER SAID THEY'D BE MAD ABOUT THAT!

OKAY, LOOK. I DON'T WANT YOU TO TAKE CONTROL. BUT IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, I'M OPEN FOR SUGGESTIONS!
DUCK AND SHUT UP
HUH?
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK

FWOOSH
DING! DING!
ALERT! ALERT!!
SOMEONE'S IN THE COMPOUND!
DING! DING! DING!
LOOKS LIKE A KID, BUT HE'S DANGEROUS!
HE'S FUCKING FAST!

IS THIS YOUR STRATEGY? TO RUN LIKE A HOUND?
SHUT THE FUCK UP SHUT THE FUCK UP--
YOU ARE PANICKING. YOU ARE NOT GOING TO MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS RIGHT NOW.
LET ME TAKE OVER, I AM DESIGNED FOR COMBAT.
FINE, FINE! YOU DO IT! JUST DON'T KILL ANYONE!
UNDERSTOOD
Kuursh

FIRST. BREYKEN FORGOT TO ACTIVATE THE SUIT--
BZZT
SPRZG
TO GENERATE A FIELD THAT WILL PROTECT US FROM THE BULLETS HE FEARS SO MUCH.
SECOND. HAZARD'S ORDER OF OBJECTIVES IS INCORRECT STOPPING THE DROSERESQUE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TASK
AND IT SHOULD LEAD US STRAIGHT TO WHATEVER IS INTERCEPTING ITS [illegible]

BZZ-22T
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COMPOUND, THERE IS A LAPTOP.
THERE HE IS!
TAK
TAK
TAK

aaaaa...
AAAAAAH!
I WILL GIVE YOU CREDIT. IT TOOK ME QUITE SOME TIME TO DECIPHER HOW TO TALK TO YOU, FROM WITHIN YOUR MIND
BUT IT IS YOUR MIND, SO PERHAPS THAT MAKES IT EASIER FOR YOU.

YOU CAN HEAR ME NOW? I'VE BEEN SCREAMING SINCE I GOT HERE.

I WOULD NOT EXPECT MORE OF YOU.

WHAT DID YOU DO EARLIER? DO YOU REALLY KNOW WHERE TO GO NOW?

YES. SAVE QUESTIONS FOR LATER.

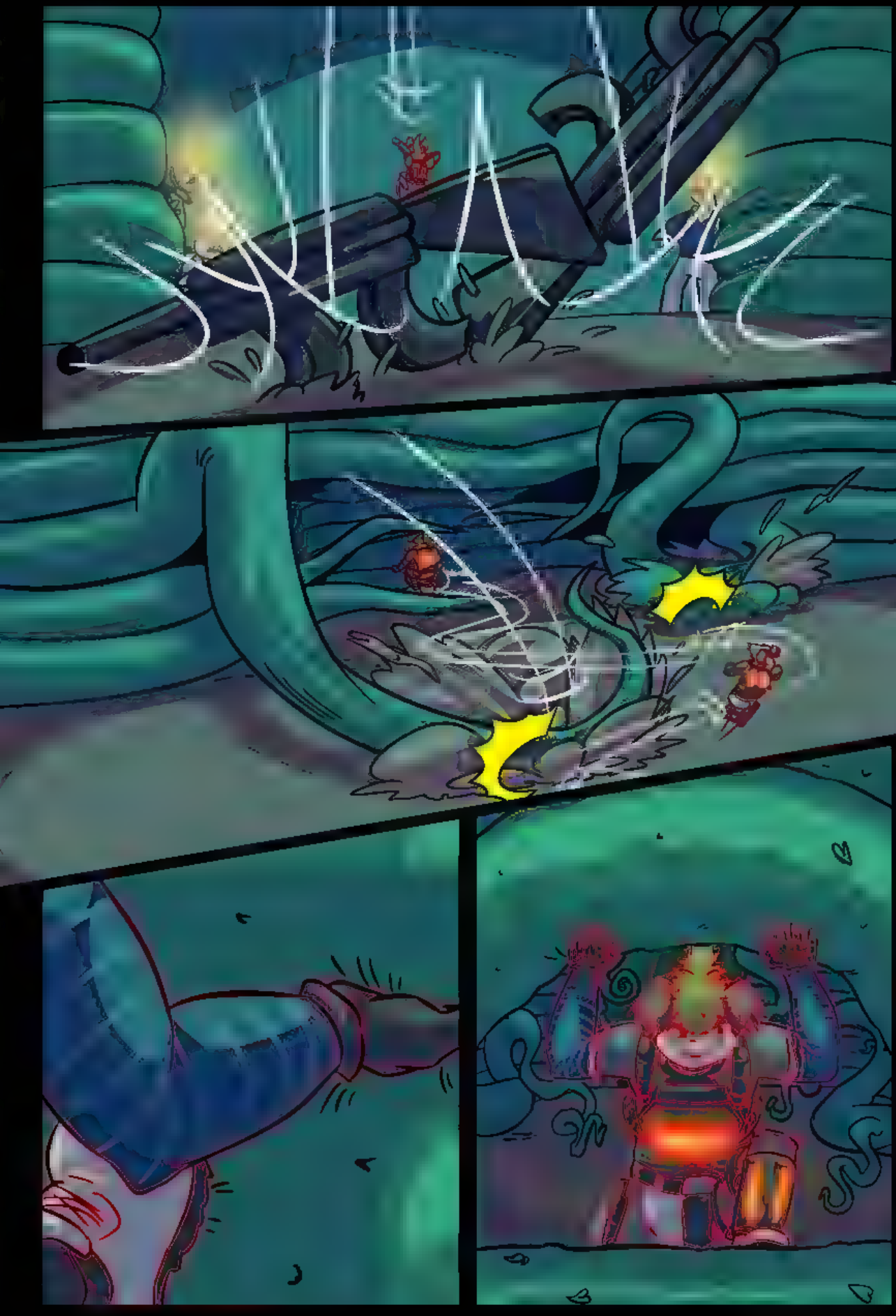
WHY?

I AM BUSY

BUT I'LL *FORGET* LATER!

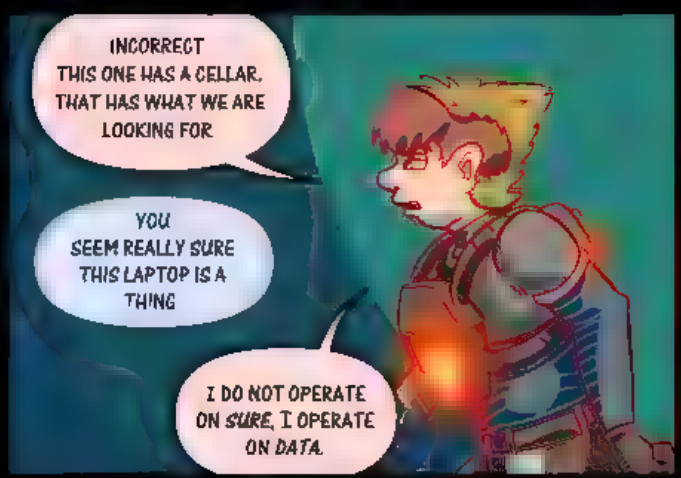
I DO NOT CARE.

YOU KNOW THERE'S A LAPTOP, THOUGH?
I SAID LATER.
I'M GOING TO KEEP BUGGING YOU UNTIL YOU TALK--
HO-KAY, MAYBE LATER!
TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK
HUH?!
WHAT THE HELL?!



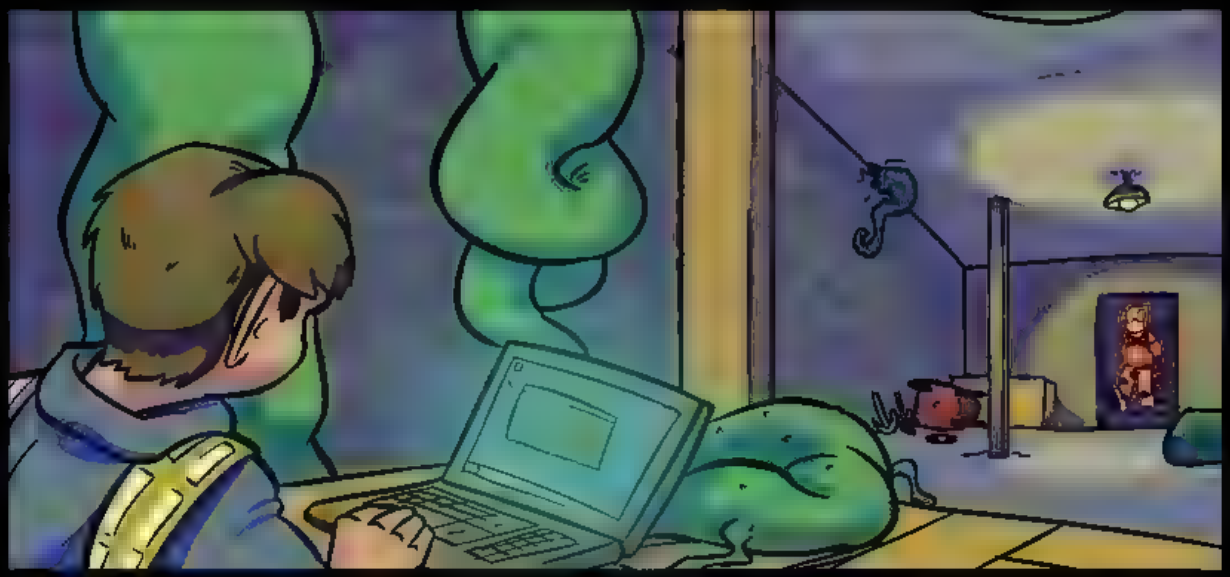
SLAM
SHOW OFF
PLAT

THERE, IN THAT BUILDING
THAT'S THE ONE?
IT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE OTHERS?


INCORRECT THIS ONE HAS A CELLAR. THAT HAS WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR
YOU SEEM REALLY SURE THIS LAPTOP IS A THING
I DO NOT OPERATE ON *SURE*, I OPERATE ON *DATA*.

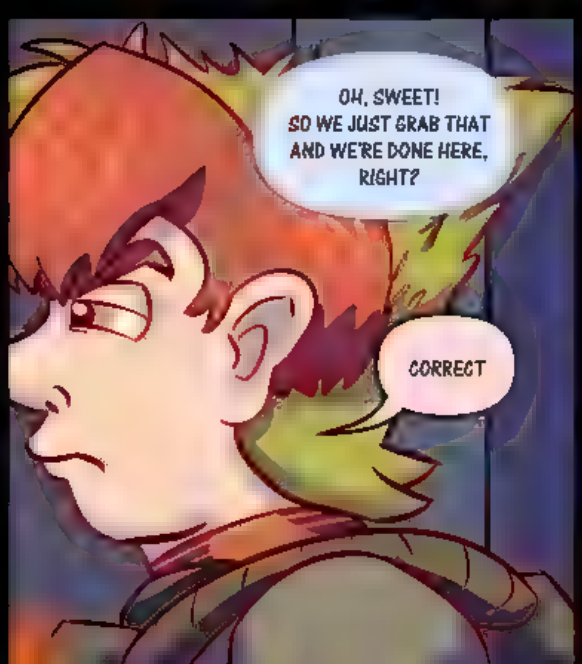
THAT'S DUMB AND NOT WHAT I ASKED
NOTED

CREEK



OH
OH NO--
YOU CAN'T BE HERE! YOU N-NEED TO LEAVE!
ANOTHER KID?

.THERE IS THE LAPTOP I DETECTED


OH, SWEET! SO WE JUST GRAB THAT AND WE'RE DONE HERE, RIGHT?
CORRECT

L-LEAVE! OR I'LL SHOOT!

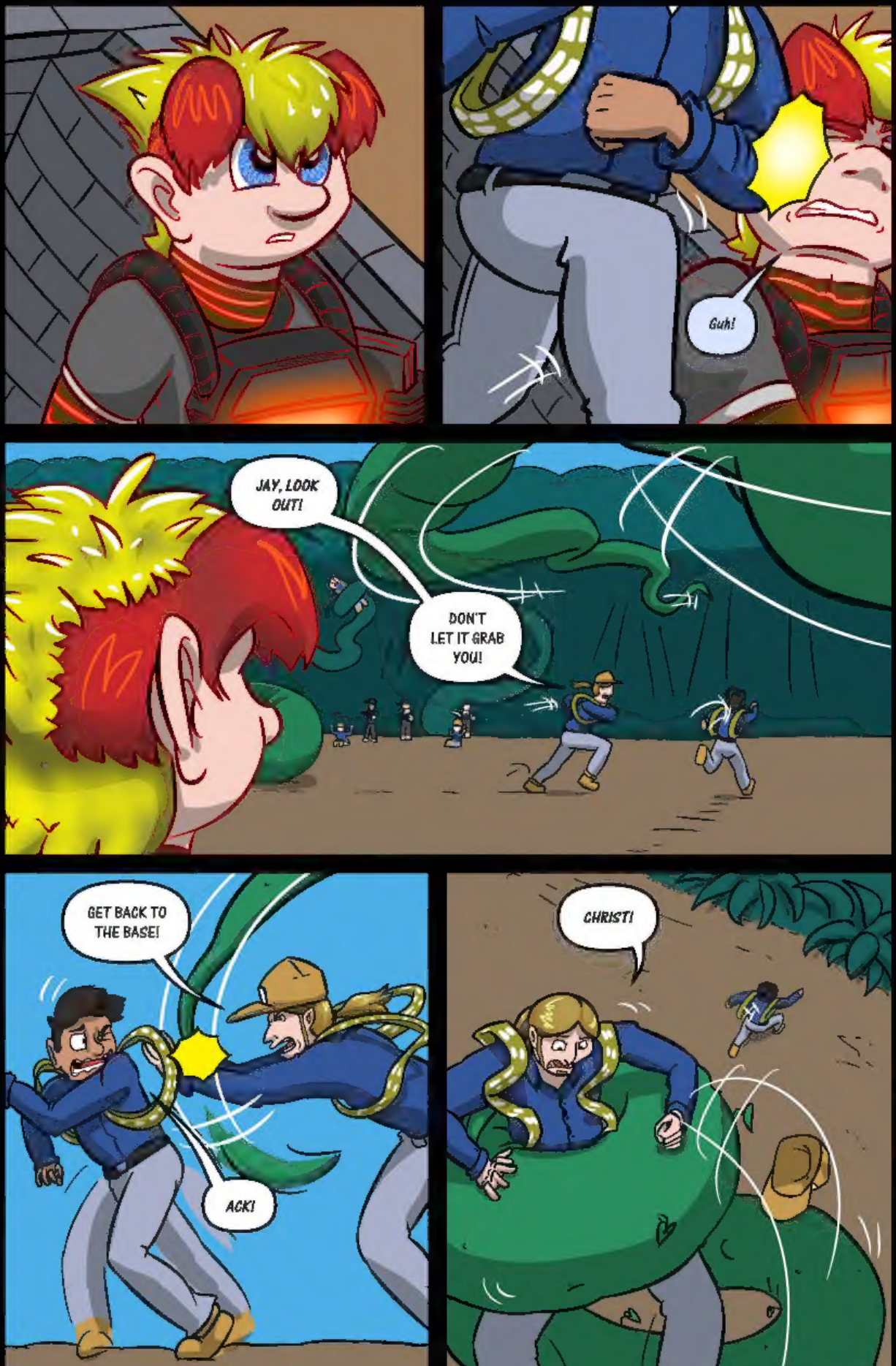
STAND DOWN. GIVE US THE LAPTOP
But
NO! I'LL DIE BEFORE I LET YOU TAKE IT!
AT YOUR REQUEST
WAIT, NO!
TAKEO--
STOP!

FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFF
AAAH!!!
FT
KRF
CLAK
Clak

UH-- LOOK, I'M NOT GONNA HURT YOU. JUST LET ME HAVE THE LAPTOP, OKAY?
N-NO. YOU CAN'T TAKE IT. WE'LL NEVER GET OUT OF HERE WITHOUT IT
GET OUT OF HERE?
HE'S OVER HERE! WITH THE LAPTOP!
JAY!
THEY WILL BE HERE SOON.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO ARGUE. SORRY--
BAM!
YEAH THAT DOESN'T WORK.

Krrr
THWIP
Krr
Krr
FTHLF
Krr
FTHLF
Krrrr
THE WALL!!
THE DAMN SNAKE'S LOOSE!!
Oh no...
RUN! IT'LL KILL YOU!!!
RUN RUN RUN!!!
FUCK, THE MERCS!!

AAAH!
HELP!
Ft Ft Ft
Ft Ft
Ft Ft
Run, run!
Shit!
GET ON THE GROUND! HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEADS!
DROP YOUR WEAPONS!!


Guh!
JAY, LOOK OUT!
DON'T LET IT GRAB YOU!
GET BACK TO THE BASE!
ACK!
CHRIST!

KID! GOOD WORK!
YOU CAN HEAD BACK TO THE MANOR NOW, WE'VE GOT THIS UNDER CONTROL!
WHAT ABOUT THAT *THING*?
EDEN? SHE'S DOING HER JOB! YOU GOT HER BACK TO *NORMAL*!
GO LET THE BOSSES KNOW WE'RE FINALLY GOOD DOWN HERE!
SOMETHING'S NOT *RIGHT* HERE.
THIS IS WHAT WAS EXPECTED.
THIS IS WHAT THE DROSERESQUE IS DESIGNED FOR. HAZARD CALLED IT *SECURITY*.
WE HAVE RESTORED IT, AS WE WERE TASKED TO.
NO, I MEAN *MORALLY*. NOT THAT *YOU* KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.
I DON'T THINK WE'RE DONE HERE YET.
END